

The Pillars of Success
Academics, Athletics, the Arts and Altruism

POINTS OF PRIDE

February 2022

Academics

- **Ray Adams** of **Calhoun** was chosen to attend Boys State. At American Legion Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments.
- The **Calhoun Virtual Enterprise** team competed in the Regional Business Plan Competition on Jan. 27, and advanced to the next level! They were ranked in the top 40 on Long Island and presented a phenomenal business plan. **Jordan Burr, Allison Flynn** and **Shane Linett** represented the firm in their presentation.
- **Kennedy Virtual Enterprise** teams ranked top 50 in the country. **SkySource** is moving forward in the Business Plan competition. The team participated in a 10-minute presentation based on an executive summary of their company. Presenters included **Jillian Agaliotis, Nicolas Bedoya, Samantha Einbinder, Jared Levine, Bradley Lieberman** and **Joshua Vayman**. Additionally, **SkySource** is moving forward in the Finance competition in which they presented balance sheets, income statements and projections. **Imperium** will continue on in the Human Resources competition, which is an entire company handbook of rules and regulations.
- **Mepham's Virtual Enterprise** students, with a company called **Look**, competed in the Regional Business Plan Competition on Jan. 27. The team advanced to the next level.
- On Nov. 16, 42 of the top math students from Calhoun participated in the prestigious Mathematical Association of America's American Mathematics Competition (AMC). Top three scorers for the AMC 10: **Fiona Wong, Jaclyn Dobbs** and **Iliana Waldman**.
- **Christopher Luisi** of **Kennedy** earned first place in the Junior Science and Humanities Regional Semi-final Symposium. On Feb. 26, he presented his research, How Dietary Restriction Affects the Athleticism, Metabolic Rate and Lifespan of *Drosophila melanogaster*, at York College.
- The **Kennedy** upperclassmen **CyberPatriot** team earned its New York State first-place finish in the U.S. Air Force CPXIV competition. This marks Kennedy's fourth consecutive championship. Two additional teams advanced; a team of freshmen/juniors earned second place in the silver tier.
- **The Kennedy ITEEA REACH team** was named finalists. The team was challenged to create an adaptive and assistive device. It created a Thermal Kinetic Therapeutic Glove to help individuals with Raynaud's disease. The team won a STEM grant, a gift card and STEM supplies.
- Each year, the U.S. Department of Education honors some of the nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. **Kennedy's Brandon Lin, Chris Luisi** and **Desiree Rigaud** were named candidates in the Presidential Scholars Program. Each year up to 161 students are named Presidential Scholars.

- Student leaders from Kennedy took a civic engagement project on the road! **Nicole Giordano, Beverly Kleinman, Alex Levitt, Savannah LoGiudice, Rachel Oppenheim** and **Skyler Poster** visited **Grand Avenue** to hold a workshop on empowering the growth mindset in young females. The culminating activity was the creation of confidence boards that participants can display as a personal reminder of their incredible attributes.
- **Kennedy's Science Olympiad Teams** advanced to states at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition held on Feb. 11. Bellmore-JFK Team A finished in sixth place out of 40 teams with numerous individual awards. The strong team performance allows JFK to advance to the New York State finals March 18 in Syracuse, New York. Bellmore-JFK Team B finished in a very respectable 12th place, also earning multiple individual awards. The Science Olympiad Competition involves teams of 15 students that compete in 23 different science events. The teams from John F. Kennedy won 47 medals. On **Calhoun's Science Olympiad Team**, **Erika Klein** and **Joe Fiscella** earned sixth place in Cell Biology. **Sundeep Kaur** and **Ivy Lian** earned 10th place in Dynamic Planet.
- **The Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting program** was named a 2022 Student Television Network Broadcast Excellence Award winner.

Arts

- **Joseph Fiscella**, an 11th grade cellist in the **Calhoun** Orchestra, has been accepted into the Long Island String Festival Association virtual masterclass. The masterclass is a select workshop that only a handful of students are selected for compared to the association's other general workshop offerings.
- **Calhoun's On Tour Company** presented "Treasure Island" on Feb. 5 and 11.
- **Grand Avenue eighth grader Elaine Li** has received a Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key award for her self-portrait painting.
- Four **Kennedy** students received Gold Keys in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. **Nikita Rodov** was selected for her poem, "Roses," and **Sarah Suss-Pardo** was selected for her poem, "Eggshells." **Beck Levy** produced a self-portrait, "The Innocence of Youth," and **Michael Papazis'** photograph, "Bay House," was also selected. They move on to the national level and will be judged by industry experts to possibly be awarded up to \$10,000 in prizes.
- Mrs. Gillespie's seventh and eighth grade art students at **Merrick Avenue** participated in the Doodle 4 Google contest, where students have an opportunity to win college scholarships and possibly have their work featured on Google's homepage for 24 hours.
- **Mephram students Helena Fu and Klarisa Zhou** were recently selected to be part of an art show at The Atelier at Flowerfield.
- **Mephram** freshman **Daniella Contrera** and senior **Brynn Kasper** were selected to be part of an art show at The Firefly Artists Gallery in Northport. Their pieces will be displayed along with their teachers, Lisa Federici and Christine Stevens.

Athletics

- The **Bellmore-Merrick Sharks** finished their dual meet season with another conference title. The Sharks finished their season with a 7-1 conference record, edging out Southside-Lynbrook for the Conference 2 title. This is the third year in a row that the Sharks have won the Conference 2 title.
- The **Ice Hockey team** completed the season with an undefeated record of 15-0-1 and defeated Valley Stream in the quarterfinals of the county championships by a score of 14-5.
- **Eric Avellone** of **Calhoun** kicked off the county championship with an All-County finish in the weight throw. His throw of 48 feet was his best of the year.
- **Calhoun girls track** won the Nassau County Championship, a first in school history.
- **The Mepham kickline team** placed first in Team, second in Kick, Lyrical and Pom at the Long Island Dance Team Association's first competition at Walt Whitman High School Feb. 12-13. **The Calhoun kickline team** placed third in Team, second in Kick and first in Jazz.
- **Justin Hough** of the **boys bowling team** finished sixth in the county and will be representing the state team on March 11.
- **Lauren DeMarco** of the **girls bowling team** will compete in the state championship in Syracuse, New York, in March.
- **Calhoun's Ray Adams** made it to the state wrestling tournament.
- **Calhoun's girls basketball** finished its regular season as conference champion.

Altruism

- The **Students Against Destructive Decisions Club** at Merrick Avenue put together a week asking students to participate in random acts of kindness.
- Various clubs, including Grand Avenue's SADD Club, Kennedy Key Club and Merrick Avenue Wellness Center, created positive message walls for P.S. I Love You Day on Feb. 11.
- The **Kennedy Student of the Year Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Fundraising Campaign** hosted a Valentine's Day Treat Sale, clothing drive dropoff, Good Vibes Bake Sale, Super Bowl Square sale, online Zumba class, a bingo night and more.
- Seniors in **Mepham's Participation in Government** classes have already generated over \$10,000 for this year's St. Baldrick's event, slated for March 16.
- **Regina Schilling's** seventh grade family and consumer science classes at **Grand Avenue** recently collaborated with the third grade classes at Newbridge Road Elementary School. Mrs. Adragna and Mrs. Brust, two third grade teachers at Newbridge, had their students design and decorate monsters. Ms. Schilling's students then received these monsters and used them as their template and pattern to work on for their class sewing project. They later connected via Zoom with their final projects.
- **Mepham Leos** made and delivered sandwiches to the INN at Hempstead the week before the February break.